

# FORSCOM CSM visits 3rd Sig. Bde. Family Readiness Center

By Capt. Michael Greenberger

3rd Sig. Bde. PAO

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Carey, the 15th command sergeant major of U.S. Army Forces Command, visited the 3rd Signal Brigade Family Readiness Center April 6 to meet the brigade's Family Readiness assistant, Felicia Neal, and access the facility and learn program specifics.

Neal is a contract employee under the FORSCOM Family Readiness Group Assist program, implemented in 2004 to help FRGs take better care of Soldiers and families during deployments.

Carey called the FRC a "first class operation" and thanked Neal and her assistant, Staff Sgt. Randall Washburn, for their "outstanding contributions to Soldiers and their families."

While at the FRC, Carey delivered encouraging words to assembled Soldiers and asked for their help in staying Army. "The Army needs

you," he said. "It doesn't matter what your (military occupational specialty) is, cook or infantry or armor or signal ... the country has an investment in you and needs you to protect it. You all have chosen a tough profession; it's a tough way of life, so I hope you stick with it."

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Dorsey of the 3rd Sig. Bde, "The paid position (of FRG assistant) enables unit Family Readiness Groups to have professional individuals coordinate their programs and bridge the gap between when units are without an FRG leader,"

Neal has been an FRG assistant for nearly a year. Since joining the 3rd Sig. Bde. FRC, she has arranged briefings, orientations and workshops for Soldiers and family members in newcomer adap-

tation, prevention education, risk identification, crisis intervention, family readiness, the Disabled Soldier Support System, and parenting skills classes using community and post resources.

Neal's active participation in FRG leadership for four years was instrumental in her achieving the contracted position she now holds.

"Most military spouses who donate their time to FRGs may not realize their activities look great on a resume," one FRG participant said.

Carey also visited other troops of the brigade when he stepped up to a formation in the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, motor pool and presented a coin of excellence and a firm handshake to Staff Sgt. Joseph L. Navaira, who was moments away from reen-

listing. After congratulating Navaira on his decision to reenlist, he spoke to the rest of Battery D about the war in Iraq and reassured them that what they were doing was the right thing. Carey reminded

the Soldiers that, "The bad folks we are fighting over there hate us and

our way of life. You need to be proud that you are standing up for what you believe in, and that you are fighting over there for the people standing next to you right now, your buddies and your families."

Before leaving the air defenders, Carey was given a brief tour of their primary weapon, the Avenger Air Defense System, by members of Battery A, 4-5 ADA.

Since Carey's appointment in January, the command sergeant major has been visiting all the major commands in FORSCOM.

He has been talking with as many Soldiers as possible.

He ended his visit with the 3rd Sig. Bde. with an office call with brigade Commander Col. Robert L. Bethea Jr.



Photo by Capt. Michael Greenberger, 3rd Sig. Bde. PAO

**Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Dorsey shows off the 3rd Sig. Bde. FRC to FORSCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey.**